UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/003,394	10/23/2001	James Tremlett	00-8022	5343

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EXAMINER
SALL, EL HADJI MALICK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2157	

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/003,394	TREMLETT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	El Hadji M. Sall	2157

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>23 October 2001</u>.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-31</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-31</u> is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to the amendment filed on October 12, 2005. Claims 1-

31 are pending. Claims 1-31 represent application server domain.

2.   *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed

or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the

subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject

matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made

to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was

made.

3.   Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Liljestrand et al. (referred to hereafter as Lil) U.S. 6,853,714 in view of Rao U.S.

6,789,118.

Lil teaches the invention substantially as claimed including apparatus and method for providing enhanced telecommunications services.

As to claim 1, Lil teaches a method of handling a call at an application server connected outside a public switched telephone network (PSTN) and offering one or more services, the method comprising:

Receiving information corresponding to said call at the application server outside the PSTN, the information including data identifying a subscriber of said one or more of services offered by the application server (column 6, lines 16-21, Lil discloses the softswitch is capable of using a voice-activated interface (i.e. or "identifier") to enable a subscriber to access at least one of the plurality of enhanced services).

Based on the information corresponding to the call, routing subscribers (column6, lines 52-55); and

Handling the call in accordance with an up-to-date routing information (column 6, lines 33-40).

Lil fails to teach explicitly domain policy.

However, Rao teaches multi-service network switch with policy based routing. Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide based on the information corresponding

to the call, selecting a domain policy, the domain policy applying to a set of subscribers; and handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 2, Lil teaches the method of claim 1, wherein receiving information corresponding to a call comprises receiving information from a softswitch (column 6, lines 16-55).

As to claim 3, Lil teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the information including data identifying a subscriber comprises at least one of the following: an origination phone number and a termination phone number (column 4, lines 13-18, Lil discloses to access the voice-activated interface within the enhanced services platform, the subscriber need only dial his/her own phone number).

As to claim 4, Lil teaches the method of claim 1.

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a programming language including conditional expressions.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide the domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a programming language including conditional expressions. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 5, Lil teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising constructing a call model for the call (figure 5; column 1, lines 39-43, Lil discloses enhanced services include single access services, specialized call routing and specialized call terminating treatment, and all of these enhanced services have been created with today's telephone system in mind).

As to claim 6, Lil teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising:

Determining a service domain having a call service (figure 5; column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the present invention is directed to an apparatus and method for providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy.

However, Rao teaches the domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide applying the domain policy of the determined service domain to the call. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 7, Lil teaches the method of claim 1.

Lil fails to teach explicitly handling the call in accordance with the selected

domain policy comprises authorizing the call.

However, Rao teaches handling the call in accordance with the selected domain

policy comprises authorizing the call (column 9, lines 22-24, Rao discloses the incoming

call's virtual router ID and virtual private network ID allow the switch to provide access to

resources that the user authorized for).

It would have bee obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide handling the call in accordance with the

selected domain policy comprises authorizing the call. One would be motivated to do so

to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 8, Lil teaches a method of providing call services at an application

server connected outside a public switched telephone network (PSTN), the method

comprising:

Defining a set of at least two domains (figure 5).

Receiving information corresponding to a call at the application server outside

the PSTN (column 6, lines 16-21, Lil discloses the softswitch is capable of using a

voice-activated interface (i.e. or "identifier") to enable a subscriber to access at least

one of the plurality of enhanced services).

Determining one or more domains that apply to the call (figure 5; column 2, lines

37-41, Lil discloses the present invention is directed to an apparatus and method for

providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to

subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network

exchange within the public telephone network).

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy.

However, Rao teaches the domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide applying policies associated with the

determined domains to the call. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper

handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 9, Lil teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the domains comprise

more than one subscriber domains (figure 5).

As to claim 10, Lil teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the domains comprise

more than one service domains (column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the providing a

plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by

implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the

public telephone network).

As to claim 11, Lil teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the domains comprise

more than one device domain (figure 5).

As to claim 12, Lil teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the domains comprise more than one subscriber domain and more than one service domain (figure 5; column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network)

As to claim 13, Lil teaches the method of claim 8.

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a programming language including conditional expressions.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide the domain policy comprises policies encoded in a computer programming language including conditional expressions. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 14, Lil teaches an application server connected outside a public switched telephone network (PSTN) and, comprising:

One or more aggregation domains (figure 5); and

A domain mapper that identifies one or more domains based on call information received by the application server outside the PSTN (column 4, lines 29-35, Lil discloses To determine the routing information for the called subscriber 150b, the "virtual administrator" accesses a database within the enhanced services platform 100,

which stores called party numbers and associated names (or other type of spoken identity data)).

Lil fails to teach explicitly some of the domains having an associated authorization policy.

However, Rao teaches some of the domains having an associated authorization policy (column 9, lines 22-24, Rao discloses the incoming call's virtual router ID and virtual private network ID allow the switch to provide access to resources that the user authorized for).

It would have bee obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide one or more aggregation domains, at least some of the domains having an associated authorization policy. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 15, Lil teaches the application server of claim 14, wherein the domains comprise subscriber domains (figure 5).

As to claim 16, Lil teaches the application server of claim 15, wherein the domains comprise service domains (column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

As to claim 17, Lil teaches the application server of claim 15, further comprising a

service provider interface for handling call information received from a transport device

(column 22, lines 3-7, Lil discloses he enhanced network 125 is also connected to

multiple Internet Service Providers (ISPs) 112a-c to allow subscriber Internet/WEB 105

access to their subscriber profiles and the enhanced services via the web-activated

interface)

As to claim 18, Lil teaches the application server of claim 17, wherein the

transport device comprises a softswitch (column 6, lines 16-55).

As to claim 19, Lil teaches a computer program product, disposed on a computer

readable medium, for providing calls services at an application server connected

outside a public switched telephone network (PSTN), the computer program including

instructions for causing a processor to:

Define a set of more than one domains (figure 5).

Receiving information corresponding to a call received at the application server

outside the PSTN (column 6, lines 16-21, Lil discloses the softswitch is capable of using

a voice-activated interface (i.e. or "identifier") to enable a subscriber to access at least

one of the plurality of enhanced services).

Determining one or more domains that apply to the call (figure 5; column 2, lines

37-41, Lil discloses the present invention is directed to an apparatus and method for

providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to

subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network

exchange within the public telephone network).

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy.

However, Rao teaches the domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide applying policies associated with the

determined domains to the call. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper

handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 20, Lil teaches the computer program of claim 19, wherein the

domains comprise more than one subscriber domains (figure 5).

As to claim 21, Lil teaches the computer program of claim 19, wherein the

domains comprise more than one service domains (column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses

the providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to

subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network

exchange within the public telephone network).

As to claim 22, Rao teaches the computer program of claim 19, wherein the

domains comprise more than one subscriber domain and more than one service domain

(figure 5; column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the providing a plurality of transparent

enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced

services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

As to claim 23, Lil teaches the computer program of claim 19.

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a

programming language including conditional expressions.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide the domain policy comprises policies

encoded in a computer programming language including conditional expressions. One

would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 24, Lil teaches a method of handling calls at an application server

connected outside a public switched telephone network (PSTN) and offering one or

more call services to customers of one or more telecommunications services providers,

said method comprising:

Receiving information corresponding to said calls at said application server

outside the PSTN, said information for each one of said calls including data identifying a

subscriber of said one or more of services offered by the application server (column 6,

lines 16-21, Lil discloses the softswitch is capable of using a voice-activated interface

(i.e. or "identifier") to enable a subscriber to access at least one of the plurality of

enhanced services).

Selecting a domain policy for said each one of said calls, based on the information corresponding to said calls, routing subscribers (column6, lines 52-55); and

Handling each of said calls in accordance with an up-to-date routing information (column 6, lines 33-40).

Lil fails to teach explicitly domain policy.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide selecting a domain policy for said each one of said calls, based on the information corresponding to said calls to obtain a selected domain policy for said each one of said calls, each said selected domain policy applying to a set of subscribers of one of said one or more telecommunication service providers; and handling each of said calls in accordance with the selected domain policy. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 25, Lil teaches the method of claim 24, wherein receiving information corresponding to said calls comprises receiving information from a softswitch (column 6, lines 16-55).

As to claim 26, Lil teaches the method of claim 24, wherein said information including data identifying a subscriber comprises at least one of the following: an origination phone number and a termination phone number (column 4, lines 13-18, Lil

discloses to access the voice-activated interface within the enhanced services platform,

the subscriber need only dial his/her own phone number).

As to claim 27, Lil teaches the method of claim 24.

Lil fails to teach explicitly said domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a

programming language including conditional expressions.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide said domain policy comprises a policy

encoded in a programming language including conditional expressions. One would be

motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 28, Lil teaches the method of claim 24, further comprising

constructing a call model for said calls (figure 5; column 1, lines 39-43, Lil discloses

enhanced services include single access services, specialized call routing and

specialized call terminating treatment, and all of these enhanced services have been

created with today's telephone system in mind).

As to claim 29, Lil teaches the method of claim 24, further comprising:

Determining a service domain having a call service (figure 5; column 2, lines 37-

41, Lil discloses the present invention is directed to an apparatus and method for

providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to

subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

Lil fails to teach explicitly domain policy.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide applying domain policy of said determined service domain to the call. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 30, Lil teaches the method of claim 24, wherein said call services include voice-mail, call-forwarding, call-messaging, and 911 services (column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 9).

As to claim 31, Lil teaches the method of claim 30.

Lil fails to teach explicitly handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy includes authorizing or denying said subscribers access to one or more of said call services.

However, Rao teaches handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy includes authorizing or denying said subscribers access to one or more of said call services (column 9, lines 22-24, Rao discloses the incoming call's virtual router ID and virtual private network ID allow the switch to provide access to resources that the user authorized for).

It would have bee obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy includes authorizing or denying said subscribers access to one or more of said call services. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

4.   *Response to Arguments*

Applicant's arguments filed 10/12/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

(A)   As to claims 1, applicant argues that Lil does not teach or discloses that its application server is outside its PSTN; rather, its application server 180 is placed squarely within its PSTN 102.

In regards to point (A), examiner respectfully disagrees. Lil discloses that application server can be either within the PSTN or outside the PSTN (column 1, lines 59-62).

(B)   As to claim 1, Applicant argues that the prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

In regards to point (B), examiner respectfully disagrees.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, In this case, One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers.

5.   *Conclusion*

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to El Hadji M Sall whose telephone number is 571-272-4010. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-4010.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

El Hadji Sall
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 2157

ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER